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MOLECULAR ARCHITECTURE AND THERAPEUTIC POTENTIAL OF LECTIN MIMICS

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I.	Introduction	2
II.	Synthetic Lectin Mimics	4
	1. Molecular Architecture of Boronic Acid-Dependent Lectin Mimics	4
	2. Antiviral Potential of Boronic Acid-Dependent Lectin Mimics	11
	3. Molecular Architecture of Boronic Acid-Independent Lectin Mimics	15
	4. Antiviral and Antimicrobial Potential of Boronic Acid-Independent Lectin Mimics	27
III.	Naturally Occurring Lectin Mimics	33
	1. Antimicrobial and Carbohydrate-Binding Profiles of Pradimicins and Benanoimicins	33
	2. Molecular Basis of Carbohydrate Recognition by PRMs	40
	3. Antiviral Profile and Mode of Action of Pradimicins	45
IV.	Conclusion and Future Prospects	48
	Acknowledgments	49
	References	49

ABBREVIATIONS

2D-DARR, two-dimensional dipolar-assisted rotational resonance; AIDS, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; BAMP, 2,5-bis-(aminomethyl)pyrrole; CA, *Cymbid-ium* sp. agglutinin; CP/MAS, cross-polarization/magic angle spinning; CV-N, cya-novirin-N; EGTA, ethylene glycol-bis(2-aminoethyl ether)-*N*,*N*,*N'*,*N'*-tetraacetic acid; ELISA, enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay; Gal, D-galactose; Glc, D-glucose; GlcNAc, *N*-acetyl-D-glucosamine; GNA, *Galanthus nivalis* agglutinin; HCV, hepatitis C virus; HEA, *Epipactis helleborine* agglutinin; HHA, *Hippeastrum hybrid* agglutinin; HIV, human immunodeficiency virus; ICD, induced circular dichroism;

LOA, Listera ovata agglutinin; MALDI-MS, matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization mass spectroscopy; Man, D-mannose; Me- α -Glc, methyl α -D-glucopyranoside; Me-β-Glc, methyl β-D-glucopyranoside; Me-α-GlcNAc, methyl 2-acetamido-2-deoxy- α -D-glucopyranoside; Me- β -GlcNAc, methyl 2-acetamido-2-deoxy β -D-glucopyranoside; Me- α -Man, methyl α -D-mannopyranoside; Me₂SO, dimethyl sulfoxide; MIC, minimum inhibitory concentration; NMR, nuclear magnetic resonance; NPA, Narcissus pseudonarcissus agglutinin; Oct- β -Gal, n-octyl β -D-galactopyranoside; Oct- α -Gal, *n*-octyl α -D-galactopyranoside; Oct- α -Glc, *n*-octyl α -D-glucopyranoside; Oct- β -Glc, β -D-glucopyranoside; Oct- β -GlcNAc, *n*-octyl *n*-octyl 2-acetamido-2-deoxy- β -D-glucopyranoside; Oct- β -Man, *n*-octyl β -D-mannopyranoside; Oct- α -Man, *n*-octyl α -D-mannopyranoside; PET, photoinduced electron transfer; PRM, pradimicin; ROS, reactive oxygen species; sLex, sialyl Lewis X; SPR, surface plasmon resonance; STD, saturation-transfer difference; TF, Thomsen-Friedenreich; TIMS, targeted imaging mass spectroscopy; UDA, Urtica dioica agglutinin; WGA, wheat-germ agglutinin

I. INTRODUCTION

Carbohydrates regulate a variety of biochemical pathways and disease processes, including protein folding, fertilization, embryogenesis, neuronal development, cell proliferation, microbial and viral infections, and cancer metastasis.^{1–5} Coupled with advances in understanding of the functions of carbohydrates in biological and pathological processes, the importance of carbohydrate-binding molecules has been rapidly growing as chemical tools in glycobiology. The most extensively used carbohydrate-binding molecules are lectins, which are defined as proteins of nonimmune origin that bind specific carbohydrates without modifying them.^{6,7} They have proved to be extremely useful tools not only for the isolation and characterization of glycoproteins but also for detection of dynamic spatiotemporal changes that are associated with pathological processes.^{8–10} In addition, several lectins derived from prokaryotic, plant, invertebrate, or vertebrate species having binding specificity for mannose, galactose, or N-acetylglucosamine (GlcNAc) have been found to inhibit the infection of enveloped viruses, such as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and hepatitis C virus (HCV).^{11–13} Representative lectins having antiviral activity are the mannose-specific agglutinins from Galanthus nivalis (GNA), Hippeastrum hybrid (HHA), Cymbidium sp. (CA), Narcissus pseudonarcissus (NPA), Epipactis helleborine (HEA), and Listera ovata (LOA), the GlcNAc-specific agglutinin from Urtica dioica (UDA), and the cyanobacterium-derived lectin (CV-N). These lectins show the dual mode of antiviral action, blockage of virus entry, and triggering the action of immune system by exposing cryptic immunogenic epitopes of the virus surface.

The discovery of these unique anti-HIV properties of lectins that have never been observed in any of the existing chemotherapeutics has spurred intensive study of lectins as therapeutic agents.

While lectins are of great value as possible drug candidates as well as chemical tools in glycobiology research, they have several disadvantages due to their nature as proteins. First of all, large-scale production of proteins is generally both costly and time-consuming, and their relative low chemical stability may be problematic for long storage. From a therapeutic viewpoint, the bioavailability of proteins is likely to be poor, and concerns are also raised about the unfavorable biological properties of lectins, such as immunogenicity, inflammatory activity, cellular toxicity, mitogenic stimulation of human peripheral lymphocyte cells, and hemagglutination of human red blood cells. Under these situations, non-protein small-size molecules having carbohydrate-binding properties have been recently attracting a great deal of attention as alternatives to lectins of protein structure. Since small molecules can be prepared in reliable quantities and are easily "tuned" for structural optimizations, these "lectin mimics" may have potential benefit as research tools and drug candidates.

Lectin mimics of synthetic origin have been developed progressively during recent years.^{14–17} On the basis of molecular-design principles, the synthetic lectin mimics may be divided roughly into two groups, boronic acid-dependent and boronic acidindependent lectin mimics. The former group possesses boronic acid motifs, which form tight and reversible covalent bonds with 1, 2- or 1, 3-diol groups of carbohydrates. While boronic acid itself has a low affinity for most common carbohydrates at physiological pH, the affinity can be enhanced by introduction of neighboring functional groups and/or use of two boronic acid motifs of proper alignment. In contrast, boronic acid-independent lectin mimics rely solely on non-covalent interactions for binding to carbohydrates. These types of lectin mimics have been intensively developed in the field of supramolecular chemistry. Representative molecular architectures include tripod- and cage-types, both of which incorporate, respectively, hydrophilic and hydrophobic surfaces for hydrogen bonding and CH/ π interaction (a weak hydrogen bond occurring between CH groups and aromatic rings)¹⁸ with carbohydrates. A combination of these non-covalent interactions collectively realizes threedimensional recognition of carbohydrates.

This article outlines the design concept, molecular architecture, and carbohydratebinding properties of synthetic lectin mimics by using representative examples, and discusses their therapeutic potential by reviewing recent attempts to develop antiviral and antimicrobial agents using their architectures. We also focus on naturally occurring lectin mimics, pradimicins (PRMs) and benanomicins.¹⁹ They are the only class of non-protein natural products having a C-type lectin-like property of being able to recognize D-mannopyranosides (Man) in the presence of Ca^{2+} ions. Recent investigations have revealed an interesting similarity in molecular architecture between these natural products and tripod-type lectin mimics. Moreover, accumulated evidence suggests that they have unique antimicrobial profiles that differ from those of the major classes of antibiotics, and exhibit anti-HIV activity in a manner similar to lectins. These emerging concepts of the molecular basis of carbohydrate recognition and therapeutic potential of naturally occurring lectin mimics are also described.

II. SYNTHETIC LECTIN MIMICS

1. Molecular Architecture of Boronic Acid-Dependent Lectin Mimics

Boronic acid-dependent lectin mimics contain more than one boronic acid moiety, which is responsible for their carbohydrate binding. Boronic acids act as Lewis acids because of the empty *p*-orbital on boron, and in the presence of Lewis bases such as hydroxyl groups, interconversion from sp² to sp³ hybridization readily occurs.^{20–22} In aqueous media, a water molecule reversibly adds to a neutral trigonal form (I) of boronic acids to produce an anionic tetrahedral form (II) with a release of one proton (Scheme 1). In the alkaline pH range (pH > 10), diols can react with the tetrahedral form (II) to give stable cyclic boronate esters (IV). The general affinity of boronic acids for diols in carbohydrates is as follows: *cis*-1, 2-diol > 1, 3-diol \gg *trans*-1, 2-diol. On the other hand, boronic acids exist predominately as the trigonal form (I) in the neutral pH range. As a result, reaction with diols produces chemically unstable



SCHEME 1. Binding of phenylboronic acid with a diol.

adducts (III), which are readily hydrolyzed. Therefore, a high pH is generally required in order to favor the equilibrium toward cyclic boronate esters (IV).

To realize arylboronic acid/diol association at neutral pH, several attempts have been made to stabilize their adducts. One of the most promising strategies is the introduction of dialkylaminomethyl groups to the ortho position of arylboronic acids (Scheme 2).^{23,24} The covalently appended amino groups facilitate formation of a boronic ester and accelerate arylboronic acid/diol association by direct B-N coordination or "solvent-insertion" mechanism. Recent investigations by X-ray crystallography, ¹¹B-NMR, and computational analysis support that the latter mechanism is predominant in protic solvents.²⁵⁻²⁷ By using this molecular architecture as a key structure, a number of boronic acid-dependent lectin mimics have been reported.^{14,28} The majority of these works have been directed toward the development of molecular sensors for monitoring blood D-glucose as a key component of insulinreleasing implants for diabetes patients. In early landmark studies, Shinkai and coworkers developed carbohydrate-based photoinduced electron-transfer sensors (1, 2, Fig. 1).^{29–31} These compounds bound carbohydrates at neutral pH (pH 7.77) and showed increased fluorescence through suppression of the photoinduced electron transfer (PET) from the tertiary amino group to the anthracenyl group upon binding of the carbohydrate. While the binding selectivity of **1** for D-glucose was poor (the order of selectivity for 1 is D-fructose > D-allose \approx D-galactose > D-glucose > ethylene glycol), compound 2 exhibited binding preference for D-glucose (the order of selectivity for **2** is D-glucose > D-allose > D-fructose \approx D-galactose > ethylene glycol). This selectivity of 2 for D-glucose was explained by the spatial disposition of the two boronic acid moieties. The two inwardly facing boronic acid moieties are perfectly spaced and aligned for two pairs of diol groups (1,2- and 4,6-hydroxyl groups) of D-glucose.

Using the same fluorescent reporter system, Wang and coworkers developed a series of dimer analogues of 1 (3–8, Fig. 1).^{32,33} Of three dimers having different linkers (3–5), compound 3 showed the highest selectivity for D-glucose over



SCHEME 2. Binding of o-(N,N-dialkylaminomethyl)phenylboronic acid with a diol.



FIG. 1. Boronic acid-dependent lectin mimics (1-8).

D-fructose and D-galactose (Table I), suggesting that the linker of 3 offers the appropriate orientation and distance of two boronic acid moieties for binding with D-glucose. Although the affinity of 3 for D-glucose was about three times lower than that of 2, compound 3 represents about 3-fold enhancement in selectivity for D-glucose over D-fructose. Based on these results, an additional three derivatives with electron-withdrawing groups, which generally enhance the carbohydrate affinity of

	$K_{\rm a} ({\rm M}^{-1})$						
Compound	D-Glucose	D-Fructose	D-Galactose				
2 ^{<i>a</i>}	3981	316	158				
3 ^a	1472	34	30				
4 ^{<i>a</i>}	638	77	105				
5 ^a	178	283	33				
6 ^b	2540	968	271				
7 ^b	1808	198	132				
8 ^b	630	42	46				

 $TABLE\ I \\ Binding\ Constants\ of\ 2-8\ for\ Carbohydrates\ in\ Phosphate\ Buffer\ (pH\ 7.4) \\$

^{*a*} Data cited from Ref. 32; ^{*b*} Data cited from Ref. 33.

arylboronic acids, were tested for their affinity and selectivity for carbohydrates. Although the introduction of cyano and nitro groups enhanced the affinity for D-glucose, the effects were more significant for binding to D-fructose and D-galactose. As a result, the selectivity of **6** and **7** for D-glucose was lower than that of the parent compound **3**. The fluoro-substituted derivative (**8**) was inferior to **3** in both affinity and selectivity. Although the substituent effect on carbohydrate selectivity of arylboronic acids is hard to predict, it is interesting that a simple modification of the aryl group changes the binding preference for carbohydrates.

Introduction of chirality into the PET sensor was successfully performed by Shinkai and coworkers.³⁴ The sensor **9** having the (R)-1,1'-binaphthyl moiety as the chiral and fluorophore building block discriminated D-glucose from L-glucose (Fig. 2). A maximum of a 4-fold increase in fluorescence intensity was observed upon binding of **9** to D-glucose, whereas L-glucose induced only a 2-fold increase. Competition experiments showed that **9** had the ability to recognize D-glucose selectively in the presence of L-glucose. Very recent examples of PET sensors using chiral units are the *R* and *S* enantiomers of **10**, which contain (1R)- and (1S)-1-(1-naphthyl)ethanamines, respectively.³⁵ The binding of D-glucose to *R*-**10** caused a significant increase in fluorescence intensity, whereas smaller changes in fluorescence were observed in the case of *S*-**10**. These studies clearly demonstrate that selectivity of boronic acid-dependent lectin mimics can be finely tuned toward one optical isomer of carbohydrates.

In addition to these glucose sensors, chemical probes for carbohydrate chains have been also reported. One example is a fluorescent probe (11) for sialyl Lewis X (sLe^x) developed by Wang and coworkers (Fig. 3).³⁶ The tetrasaccharide sLe^x is a well-known cell-surface carbohydrate antigen associated with the development and



FIG. 2. Boronic acid-dependent lectin mimics (9, 10).



FIG. 3. Probes for sialyl Lewis X (11, 12).

progression of many types of cancer.^{37–40} Probes for sLe^x are therefore promising as the diagnostic agents for cancer. Compound **11** showed strong fluorescence enhancement upon binding to sLe^x in a 1:1 mixture of methanol and phosphate buffer (pH 7.4). Moreover, **11** was found to fluorescently label HEPG2 cells expressing high levels of sLe^x, while **11** stained neither HEP3B cells expressing Lewis Y nor COS7 cells lacking fucosylated antigens. Using this unique fluorescent sLe^x probe, matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization mass spectrometry (MALDI-MS)-based imaging of cancer tissue has been performed.⁴¹ Targeted imaging mass spectrometry (TIMS) is a powerful method of imaging for histological analysis, which allows spatial visualization of a molecule of interest directly from tissue sections by the use of laserreactive photo-cleavable molecular tags attached to affinity molecules.^{42,43} Wang and coworkers synthesized a conjugate molecule (**12**) of **11** and a trityl-based tag, and TIMS analysis of cancer tissues having a high level of sLe^x was performed. The tumor region expressing sLe^x was successfully detected by the imaging, suggesting that MS-based imaging of cancer tissues using lectin mimic-based probes is feasible.



SCHEME 3. Binding of benzoboroxole (13) with a diol.

Although o-dialkylaminomethyl arylboronic acids have long stood as the established standard for the design of boronic acid-dependent lectin mimics, Hall and coworkers have subsequently introduced o-hydroxymethyl phenylboronic acid (benzoboroxole) as a promising alternative.^{44,45} Benzoboroxole (13) is considered to exist in its cyclic dehydrated boronophthalide form (Scheme 3). The unusually small C-B-O dihedral angle of 13 facilitates production of an anionic boronate ester with a diol even at neutral pH by opening up the cone angle in the resulting tetrahedral structure. The boronate ester formation of 13 is also entropically more favorable than that of the simple phenylboronic acid, which requires the external hydroxyl ligand to form the anionic tetrahedral complex (Scheme 1). The most important and interesting feature of 13 is its capability to bind the pyranose form of carbohydrates in neutral water. Several lines of evidence suggest that carbohydrates bind to boronic acids, including o-dialkylaminomethyl arylboronic acids in their weakly populated furanose forms, and not in their pyranose form.^{46,47} In contrast, 13 was shown to bind hexopyranosides of D-glucose, D-galactose, D-mannose, and D-fucose with weak but encouraging affinities (Table II). Although the exact mode of complexation of 13 with them is not fully understood, the relatively high Lewis

Hexopyranoside	$K_{a} (\mathrm{M}^{-1})^{a}$
D-Glucose	31
Methyl α-D-glucopyranoside	22
Methyl β-D-glucopyranoside	9
Methyl α-D-galactopyranoside	29
Methyl β-D-galactopyranoside	23
Methyl α-D-mannopyranoside	24
Methyl α-D-fucopyranoside	25

TABLE II Binding Constants of 13 for Hexopyranosides in Phosphate Buffer (pH 7.4)

^{*a*} Data cited from Ref. 45.



FIG. 4. Receptors for TF disaccharide (14-16).

acidity and strained cyclic structure of **13** are thought to be possible contributing factors for its exceptional pyranoside-binding behavior.

By taking advantage of the pyranoside-binding capability, Hall and coworkers have developed a water-soluble receptor (14–16, Fig. 4)⁴⁸ for the Thomsen–Friedenreich (TF) disaccharide, an important tumor-associated carbohydrate antigen that is present in over 90% of cancers.⁴⁹ The design of the receptor was based on the assumption that two units of benzoboroxoles would bind two diol units of the disaccharide, and the peptide backbone could be involved in hydrogen bonding and CH/ π interaction with the disaccharide. The tri(ethylene glycol) component was introduced to increase the water solubility. A library of 400 examples having different peptide backbones was prepared by solid-phase peptide synthesis and was screened for binding to the TF antigen disaccharide by use of a competitive enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA). The most potent receptor, showing an IC₅₀ of 20 µM, was compound 14, having an electron-rich *p*-methoxyphenylalanine component and a furan, both of which are favorable for CH/ π interaction with hydrogen atoms on the carbohydrate rings. The importance of the benzoboroxole moieties was confirmed by the weak affinities of control compounds (15: $IC_{50} = 54 \mu M$, 16: $IC_{50} = 100 \mu M$) for the TF disaccharide. These studies demonstrate that benzoboroxole (13) holds a great promise for the design of lectin mimics for carbohydrate biomarkers of biological importance.

2. Antiviral Potential of Boronic Acid-Dependent Lectin Mimics

The use of lectins has been recently proposed as a novel and promising approach for antiviral chemotherapy.^{11–13} Lectins exhibit antiviral activity against a range of viruses such as HIV, 50,51 HCV, 52,53 coronavirus, 54,55 and influenza virus. 56,57 The antiviral effects of these lectins are ascribed to their specific binding to carbohydrate chains (glycans) on the viral envelope. It is well known that several proteins of the viral envelope are densely glycosylated. For example, gp120, the HIV-1 envelope glycoprotein, possesses 18-30 (an average of 24) N-linked glycans, which constitute about half of the molecular weight of the gp120 molecule.⁵⁸ These glycans on the HIV-1 envelope play crucial roles in enabling an efficient entry of HIV into its susceptible target cells.^{59,60} Binding of lectins to these glycans thus inhibits the efficient functioning of the envelope molecules during viral entry.^{61–63} Another important role of the envelope glycans is to hide the highly immunogenic epitopes from the immune system of the host.^{64,65} Because of this glycan shield, the neutralizing antibody response is not elicited, and as a result, the immune system is not able to suppress HIV. However, these glycans are progressively deleted by long-term exposure of HIV to lectins through mutation of HIV.⁶⁶⁻⁶⁹ Weakening of the glycan shield triggers the production of neutralizing antibodies against the immunogenic epitopes of gp120 previously hidden.

Despite the promising dual mode of anti-HIV action of lectins, concerns regarding their therapeutic use have been raised on account of the unacceptably high cost of large-scale production, low chemical stability, and unfavorable immunogenic response. Investigations are therefore ongoing to identify lectin mimics having high synthetic accessibility and high chemical stability. Boronic acid-dependent lectin mimics are undoubtedly potential candidates that exhibit lectin-like anti-HIV activities. The first attempt to evaluate antiviral activities of small-size boronic acid derivatives has been made by McGuigan and coworkers.⁷⁰ In an initial screening, a diverse range of ortho-, meta-, and para-substituted monophenylboronic acids were tested for their antiviral activities against a broad range of viruses, including HIV-1, HIV-2, varicella zoster virus, and influenza virus (Fig. 5). Unfortunately, none of the compounds showed antiviral activity at subtoxic concentrations or bound to gp120 of HIV-1. The same research group therefore performed the second screening using a library of bisphenylboronic acids having a variety of linkers (Fig. 6).⁷¹ Although these compounds have a potential to bind two sets of diol groups in such glycans as 2-8, surface plasmon resonance (SPR) experiments revealed that none of the bisphenylboronic acids bound to gp120 of HIV-1, even at 50 μ M. Obviously, all of the compounds lacked the ability to inhibit virus replication. Although the results were



FIG. 5. Library of monophenyl boronic acid compounds.

disappointing, these data are valuable for future research aimed at designing smallsize phenylboronic acid derivatives having antiviral activity.

On the other hand, Kiser and coworkers have successfully developed water-soluble polymers of phenylboronic acids as promising anti-HIV agents (Fig. 7).⁷² The advantage of using the polymer structure is that multivalent interaction can be realized between the multiply linked boronic acid groups in the polymer and the abundant glycans on the viral envelope. Multivalent interactions can compensate for weak binding affinity of ligands because of entropic advantage and steric stabilization, and are often found in natural systems, including the carbohydrate–lectin interaction.^{73,74} Moreover, they utilized benzoboroxole (**13**) for the boronic acid components, which can bind to such non-reducing carbohydrates as methyl α -D-mannopyranoside and methyl α -D-galactopyranoside at physiological pH, as already described.^{44,45} The use of benzoboroxole is quite rational, because 30–50% of glycans in HIV-1 gp120 are high mannose-type oligosaccharides containing three terminal non-reducing mannose residues, and 50–63% are complex-type oligosaccharides terminating to some extent with non-reducing galactose groups (Fig. 8).⁵⁸ Based on these molecular design



FIG. 6. Library of bisphenylboronic acid compounds.



FIG. 7. Benzoboroxole-functionalized polymers (17-24).



FIG. 8. Structures of high mannose-type and complex-type N-glycans.

concepts, the research group of Kisher synthesized benzoboroxole-functionalized oligomers (18) and polymers (20-22). In these compounds, 5-methacrylamido-2-hydroxymethylphenyl boronic acid-derived monomers were incorporated at different feed ratios into linear backbones with 2-hydroxypropylmethacrylamide. The SPR experiments revealed that the 25 mol% functionalized oligomer (18) showed an about 8-fold higher affinity for gp120 of HIV-1 than the simple benzoboroxole (13). On the other hand, no binding was detected for an oligomer lacking benzoboroxole components (17) at any concentrations, indicating that multivalent interaction of the benzoboroxole groups with gp120 glycans is responsible for the significant affinity of compound 18. Antiviral activity against HIV-1 was evaluated only for the polymer compounds (19–22) because polymers of larger molecular weight decrease cytotoxicity by preventing cellular uptake. While the 25 mol% functionalized polymer 20 showed only slightly higher activity (EC₅₀ = 15 μ M) than the control polymer without benzoboroxole groups (19, $EC_{50} \ge 50 \mu M$), increasing the degree of functionalization markedly decreased the EC₅₀ values. The 75 mol% functionalized polymer (22) exhibited a strong activity (EC₅₀=0.015 μ M) comparable to that of the natural lectin CV-N.

Kisher's group has also developed a second generation of the benzoboroxolefunctionalized polymer, with 10 mol% of 2-acrylamido-2-methylpropanesulfonic acid (**24**).⁷⁵ Incorporation of the negatively charged sulfonate groups was expected not only to increase the aqueous solubility of the polymer at neutral pH but also to increase the binding affinity to gp120 through electrostatic interaction with the positively charged peptide fragments in the V3 loop of gp120. In fact, an almost 100-fold increase in aqueous solubility was observed with the incorporation of the methylpropanesulfonic acid moieties, and compound **24** showed enhanced anti-HIV-1 activity (EC₅₀=4 nM). A physical mixture of **21** and **23** did not demonstrate any significant increase in activity, suggesting that simultaneous ionic and covalent interactions possibly contribute to the observed synergistic improvement in antiviral activity of **24**. Moreover, biocompatibility evaluations on VEC-100-reconstructed human vaginal tissue suggest that **24** is likely to be nontoxic. These studies provide the first example of boronic acid-dependent lectin mimics having anti-HIV activity and demonstrate that these polymers are promising candidates for further development as microbicides.

3. Molecular Architecture of Boronic Acid-Independent Lectin Mimics

In contrast to the boronic acid-dependent lectin mimics that utilize non-natural covalent interactions for carbohydrate binding, boronic acid-independent lectin mimics bind carbohydrates through natural non-covalent interactions. These receptors generally realize the carbohydrate recognition by a combination of hydrogen bonding, CH/ π interaction, and metal coordination, in a manner similar to that of natural lectins.^{15–17} From this characteristic, boronic acid-independent lectin mimics are often referred to as "biomimetic carbohydrate receptors." By imitating the binding motifs observed in the crystal structures of lectin–carbohydrate complexes, a number of boronic acid-independent lectin mimics have been designed. Among them, this section focuses on tripod-type and cage-type architectures and reviews the design concept and carbohydrate-binding properties of representative compounds.

The tripod-type receptors, in principle, incorporate three hydrophobic units interconnected by an arene spacer (Fig. 9). Whereas the apolar bottom face of this



FIG. 9. Typical architecture of tripod-type boronic acid-independent lectin mimics.



FIG. 10. Tripod-type boronic acid-independent lectin mimics (25-28).

architecture interacts with CH groups of carbohydrates through CH/π interaction, the polar lateral face forms hydrogen bonds with the hydroxyl groups of carbohydrates. These non-covalent interactions collectively realize three-dimensional recognition of carbohydrates by the tripod-type receptors. Early examples are compounds 25 and 26 developed by Mazik and coworkers.^{76–79} These receptors contain a benzene platform as the π -donor for CH/ π interaction and three amidopyridine moieties as hydrophilic units (Fig. 10). ¹H-NMR spectroscopic titrations in chloroform (Table III) revealed that both receptors formed very strong 2:1 receptor-carbohydrate complexes with *n*-octyl β-Dglucopyranoside (Oct- β -Glc), *n*-octyl α -D-glucopyranoside (Oct- α -Glc), and *n*-octyl β -D-galactopyranoside (Oct- β -Gal). Replacement of the amidopyridine moieties by aminopyridine groups and incorporation of methyl or ethyl groups into the central phenyl ring (27, 28, Fig. 10) significantly increased the binding selectivity for Oct- β -Glc. In addition, curve fitting of the titration data for receptors 27 and 28 with Oct- β -Glc suggested the existence of both 1:1 and 1:2 receptor-carbohydrate complexes in chloroform, with strong association constants for 1:1 complexes. The results of these initial studies demonstrated that the tripod-type architecture is effective for the carbohydrate recognition, and subtle structural variation can lead to remarkable changes of the receptor properties.

Since these discoveries, Mazik's group has performed systematic studies using the tripodal architecture and found that a variety of functional groups, such as heteroaromatic, guanidinium, carboxylate, crown ether, hydroxy, amide, and oxime-based groups, were suitable for the hydrophilic units.⁸⁷ The tripod-type receptors reported by Mazik's group are also shown in Fig. 11 (29–40). Receptors 29, 30, and 31 contain,

	0		·	•			
	β-Glc		α-	Gle	β-	β -Gal	
Receptor	K_{11}^{a}	K_{21}^{b} or K_{12}^{c}	<i>K</i> ₁₁	K_{21} or K_{12}	<i>K</i> ₁₁	K_{21} or K_{12}	
25 ^d	660	24,200	3640	82,450	420	50,770	
26 ^d	440	22,600	2100	47,600	300	29,350	
27 ^d	20,950	790	800	_	1360	211	
28 ^d	48,630	1320	1310	_	3070	470	
29 ^e	144,520	4330	24,880	1750	NT	NT	
30 ^e	39,800	1610	2280	_	NT	NT	
31 ^e	18,900	2850	1840	_	NT	NT	
32 ^g	191,730	8560	3160	1540	3320	300	
33 ⁸	156,100	10,360	2820	350	7470	1100	
34 ^h	>100,000	10,000	>100,000	ND ⁱ	9550	1030	
35 ^{<i>i</i>}	>100,000	ND	>100,000	ND	13,360	800	
36 ^k	>100,000	ND	7450	1150	>100,000	ND	
37 ^{<i>k</i>}	45,900	730	1280	250	38,000	1100	
38 ¹	28,800	530	4360	210	44,540	1680	
39 ¹	12,600	450	1660	280	19,400	940	
40 ^{<i>m</i>}	69,500	1060	6810	100	148,700	1580	

TABLE III Binding Constants of 25-40 for n-Octyl D-Glycosides in Chloroform

^{*a*} 1:1 receptor–carbohydrate association constant; ^{*b*} 2:1 receptor–carbohydrate association constant; ^{*c*} 1:2 receptor–carbohydrate association constant; ^{*d*} Data cited from Ref. 79; ^{*e*} Data cited from Ref. 80;

^f Not tested; ^g Data cited from Ref. 81; ^h Data cited from Ref. 82; ⁱ Not detected; ^j Data cited from Ref. 83; ^k Data cited from Ref. 84; ^l Data cited from Ref. 85; ^m Data cited from Ref. 86.

respectively, the primary amide, amino, and hydroxyl groups instead of one aminopyridine unit of 28.80 These functional groups were incorporated as analogues of the side chains of Asn, Gln, Lys, and Ser, which are often observed in the carbohydratebinding motifs of natural lectins. While the binding profiles of 30 and 31 with the amino and hydroxyl groups, respectively, were almost similar to that of the parent compound 28, significant enhancement in affinity for Oct-β-Glc was observed in 29 with two primary amide groups (Table III). Receptors 32 and 33 containing imidazole and indole rings, which mimic the side chains of His and Trp, respectively, were also tested for their binding to Oct-β-Glc, Oct-α-Glc, and Oct-β-Gal.⁸¹ Marked enhancements in binding to all glycosides were observed in both compounds. ¹H-NMR analysis suggested that CH/π interaction might contribute significantly to the complexation of 32 and 33 with Oct- β -Glc. On the other hand, introduction of an unnatural phenanthroline ring to the hydrophilic unit (34) was shown to be particularly effective in the binding to Oct- β - and Oct- α -Glc.⁸² Molecular-modeling



FIG. 11. Tripod-type boronic acid-independent lectin mimics (29-40).

calculations suggested that the binding pocket of **34** has the correct shape and size for encapsulation of these glucopyranosides.

Based on the observation that the phenanthroline, imidazole, and indole rings were valuable building blocks for hydrophilic units, a new series of receptors (35-37) containing two units of these building blocks were designed.^{83,84} Although the affinities of both 34 and 35, having, respectively, one and two phenanthroline units, for Oct- β -Glc and Oct- α -Glc were too large to be calculated in chloroform, titration experiments in 5% Me₂SO-chloroform revealed that 35 was a superior β-Glc binder to 34 (K_{11} for 34 = 36,530 M⁻¹, K_{11} for 35 = 78,400 M⁻¹). These results indicate that the incorporation of the second phenanthroline unit causes further enhancement of the binding affinity of the receptor. On the other hand, significant changes in binding preference were observed in 36 and 37, containing, respectively, two imidazole and indole units. Whereas the affinities of these receptors for Oct-β-Glc were markedly decreased as compared to those of 32 and 33 with, respectively, one imidazole and indole unit, they displayed a high level of affinity toward Oct-β-Gal. The binding selectivity for Oct- β -Gal was further increased in 38 and 39, which have the alkyl side chains of Val and Leu in the hydrophilic units, respectively.⁸⁵ Their binding affinities for Oct-β-Gal were slightly higher than those for Oct-β-Glc. Van der Waals contacts between the branched alkyl groups and glycosides probably contribute to the binding



FIG. 12. Tetrapod-type boronic acid-independent lectin mimics (41, 42).

capacity of **38** and **39**. The most effective receptor for Oct-β-Gal reported to date is **40**, a compound with two 8-hydroxyquinoline units.⁸⁶ Receptor **40** displayed more than 2-fold selectivity for Oct-β-Gal over Oct-β-Glc and Oct-α-Glc, and its affinity for Oct-β-Gal was extremely potent. In addition to these tripod-type receptors for monosaccharides, Mazik's group has developed the tetrapod-type receptors **41** and **42** (Fig. 12).⁸⁸ Combination of the dimesitylmethane scaffold and four aminopyridine units was expected to provide a cavity suitable for disaccharides. Indeed, these receptors exhibited a strong binding preference for *n*-dodecyl β-maltoside ($K_{21} \ge 100,000 \text{ M}^{-1}$ for **41** and **42**) over Oct-β-Glc ($K_{12} = 630 \text{ M}^{-1}$ for **41**, $K_{12} = 560 \text{ M}^{-1}$ for **42**) in chloroform, indicating that these relatively large architectures fit well to the disaccharide structures.

Roelens and coworkers have developed a series of pyrrolic tripodal receptors using the triethylbenzene scaffold, representatives of which are shown in Fig. 13 (43–47). These receptors were evaluated against a set of *n*-octyl glycosides of biologically relevant monosaccharides, including Glc, Gal, Man, and GlcNAc. Roelens's group has assessed the binding affinities of the receptors using the original parameter, BC_{50}^{0} (intrinsic median binding concentration) descriptor, which is defined as the total concentration of receptor necessary for binding 50% of the ligand when the fraction of bound receptor is zero.⁸⁹ The BC_{50}^{0} value can be viewed as a global dissociation constant in chemical systems involving any number of complex species. Table IV summarizes BC_{50}^{0} values of 43–47 for the set of *n*-octyl glycosides in chloroform or acetonitrile. The progenitors 43 and 44, having imino and amino groups, respectively, displayed modest to high affinity for all *n*-octyl glycosides in chloroform.⁸⁹ Both receptors had a preference for Oct- β -Glc and Oct- β -GlcNAc, indicating that the pyrrolic tripodal architecture is well suited for binding to carbohydrates having all-equatorial arrays of polar functionality. However, the binding selectivity was



FIG. 13. Tripod-type boronic acid-independent lectin mimics (43-47).

	BC_{50}^{0} (μ M)							
Receptor	α-Glc	β-Glc	α-Gal	β- Gal	α-Man	β-Man	α-GlcNAc	β-GlcNAc
43 ^{<i>a</i>,<i>b</i>}	268	4.8	368	120	262	660	1179	30
44 ^{<i>a,b</i>}	570	24	790	70	43	37	72	18
45 ^{<i>a</i>,<i>c</i>}	570	39	2250	185	2.8	<1	6.4	6.9
45 ^{<i>c</i>,<i>d</i>}	25,600	7940	28,300	10,290	5850	680	5880	6990
46 ^{<i>d</i>,<i>e</i>}	1251	929	1245	2450	127	873	1070	905
47 ^{<i>d</i>,<i>e</i>}	2493	1248	3183	1532	286	83	1573	1298

TABLE IV Intrinsic Median Binding Concentrations of 43–47 for *n*-Octyl D-Glycosides in Chloroform or Acetonitrile

^{*a*} Measured in CDCl₃; ^{*b*} Data cited from Ref. 89; ^{*c*} Data cited from Ref. 90; ^{*d*} Measured in CD₃CN;

^e Data cited from Ref. 91.

completely different in **45**, which has an acetal substituent in the α position of the pyrrole.⁹⁰ Receptor **45** showed a striking affinity for Oct- β -Man, which was too strong to be evaluated in chloroform. Titration experiments in acetonitrile revealed that the affinity of **45** for Oct- β -Man was almost one order of magnitude greater than those of the other glycosides. NMR experimental data combined with molecular-modeling

calculations suggested that this notable selectivity of **45** for Oct- β -Man was derived from a conformational restriction induced by the cyclic acetal substituents on the pyrrole unit.⁹² The resulting narrower binding-cleft of **45** fits preferentially to Oct- β -Man. Based on these promising results, Roelens's group developed a new generation of Man-selective receptors incorporating chiral *trans*-1,2-diaminocyclohexane units (**46**, **47**).^{91,93,94} Receptors **46** and **47** displayed substantial affinity and selectivity for Oct- α and Oct- β -Man, respectively. Replacement of the diamines of **46** and **47** with the corresponding enantiomers decreased both affinity and selectivity, indicating that the chirality of the receptor plays a key role in determining the recognition properties of the receptors. In regard to affinity and selectivity, **46** and **47** are the most effective Man receptors reported to date.

Miller and coworkers have generated a novel class of tripod-type receptors having a *cis*-1,3,5-trisubstituted cyclohexane scaffold (Fig. 14).⁹⁵ To achieve the conformational restriction of the receptors, three pyridine (**48**) or quinoline (**49**) rings were directly attached to the cyclohexane ring. ¹H NMR, UV, and fluorescence titration experiments demonstrated that both compounds strongly bound to *n*-octyl glycosides in chloroform and even in a polar solvent, methanol (Table V). It is noteworthy that **48** displayed the highest binding affinity reported to date for Oct- α -Glc in chloroform and retained its micromolar range of affinities in methanol. These results indicate that cyclohexane ring can also serve as an effective scaffold for designing tripod-type receptors.

Another representative architecture of boronic acid-independent lectin mimics is the cage type, which consists of two parallel aromatic surfaces held apart by hydrophilic groups (Fig. 15).^{16,96} Carbohydrates can be fully enclosed by this architecture, in which the roof and floor of the aromatic rings provide apolar surfaces for CH/ π interaction, and polar pillars of hydrophilic units are capable of hydrogen bonding with carbohydrates. Because of this structural feature, the cage-type receptors



FIG. 14. Tripod-type boronic acid-independent lectin mimics (48, 49).

	$K_{\mathbf{a}} (\mathbf{M}^{-1})^{\boldsymbol{a}}$							
Receptor	α-Glc	β-Glc	α-Gal	β -Gal	α-Man	β-Man		
48 ^b	212,000	29,000	17,700	10,900	6500	ND ^c		
48 ^d 49 ^d	52,000 15,300	9700 9200	9600 6600	5200 3200	>1300 2600	ND >400		

 TABLE V

 Binding Constants of 48 and 49 for n-Octyl D-Glycosides in Chloroform or Methanol

^a Data cited from Ref. 95; ^b Measured in CHCl₃; ^c Not determined; ^d Measured in CH₃OH.



FIG. 15. Typical architecture of cage-type boronic acid-independent lectin mimics.

specifically recognize carbohydrates such as β -Glc and β -GlcNAc that bear allequatorial arrays of polar functionality and all-axial arrays of hydrophobic CH groups.

In a pioneering study, Davis and coworkers constructed a prototype **50** having two biphenyl and eight isophthalamide groups (Fig. 16).⁹⁷ Molecular modeling suggested that the cavity created by this architecture was sufficiently large to accept a β -Glc molecule, making up to six intermolecular hydrogen bonds and several CH/ π interactions. This prediction was confirmed by binding studies employing fluorescencetitration experiments in chloroform. Receptor **50** bound Oct- β -Glc with substantial affinity ($K_a = 300,000 \text{ M}^{-1}$) and reasonable selectivity over Oct- α -Glc ($K_a = 13,000 \text{ M}^{-1}$) and Oct- β -Gal ($K_a = 100,000 \text{ M}^{-1}$). Moreover, NMR experiments revealed that **50** was capable of binding Oct- β -Glc ($K_a = 980 \text{ M}^{-1}$), even in the presence of methanol (CDCl₃:CD₃OH = 92:8). Davis's group has also developed an extended variant of **50** (compound **51**) as a selective receptor for disaccharides having



FIG. 16. Cage-type boronic acid-independent lectin mimics (50-53) and (glyco)peptides (54, 55).

all-equatorial arrays of polar functionality.⁹⁸ While no binding was detected with Oct- β -Glc, *n*-octyl β -lactoside [β -Gal-(1 \rightarrow 4)-Glc], *n*-octyl β -maltoside [α -Glc-(1 \rightarrow 4)-Glc], and *n*-dodecyl α -maltoside in CDCl₃:CD₃OH (92:8), compound **51** significantly bound *n*-octyl β -cellobiose [β -Glc-(1 \rightarrow 4)-Glc] with K_a of 7000 M⁻¹.

Roelens and coworkers also reported a cage-type receptor incorporating aminopyrrolic groups (**52**, Fig. 16), which was active in an organic solvent.⁹⁹ The roof and floor of **52** were constructed from 1,3,5-triethylbenzene, which has been extensively employed for the core scaffold in tripod-type receptors, as already discussed. Although the binding cavity of **52** is smaller relative to that of Davis's receptor (**50**), compound **52** was capable of enclosing Oct- β -Glc with a K_a of 48,300 M⁻¹ in chloroform. Moreover, compound **52** was found not to bind either Oct- α -Glc or both isomers of Oct-Gal and Oct-Man, indicating that the architecture of **52** is also effective for the recognition of carbohydrates having an all-equatorial array of polar functionality.

Based on the promising results of this early work, the Davis group investigated the effectiveness of the cage architecture in aqueous media. After the successful

development of a water-soluble variant of compound **50** (**53**, Fig. 16),¹⁰⁰ in which a tricarboxylate group is installed in each hydrophilic component, its binding property against a panel of 22 carbohydrates was thoroughly examined (Table VI).¹⁰¹ In accordance with the binding preference of **50** in organic solvents, compound **53** displayed substantial affinity for methyl β -D-glucopyranoside (Me- β -Glc) in water ($K_a = 28 \text{ M}^{-1}$). However, it was found that methyl 2-acetamido-2-deoxy β -D-glucopyranoside (Me- β -GlcNAc) was a better target for **53** ($K_a = 630 \text{ M}^{-1}$). The affinity of compound **53** for Me- β -GlcNAc was comparable to that of a natural lectin, wheat-germ agglutinin (WGA, $K_a = 730 \text{ M}^{-1}$), which has classically been used

TABLE VI Binding Constants of Compound 53 and the Natural Lectin, Wheat-Germ Agglutinin (WGA), for Carbohydrates in Aqueous Solution

	$K_{\mathbf{a}} (\mathbf{M}^{-1})^{\mathbf{a}}$			
Carbohydrate	53	WGA		
Me-β-GlcNAc	630 ^b	730 ^c		
N-Acetyl-D-glucosamine (GlcNAc)	56 ^b	410 ^d		
Methyl β-D-glucopyranoside	28 ^b			
Me-α-GlcNAc	24 ^e	480^{c}		
Cellobiose	17 ^b			
D-Glucose	9 ^b			
2-Deoxy-D-arabino-hexose	7 ^b			
Methyl α-D-glucopyranoside	7 ^b			
D-Xylose	5 ^b			
D-Ribose	3 ^b			
D-Galactose	2 ^b			
L-Fucose	2 ^b			
N-Acetyl-D-galactosamine (GalNAc)	2 ^b	60 ^c		
N-Acetyl-D-mannosamine (ManNAc)	2 ^b	60 ^c		
D-Arabinose	2 ^b			
D-Lyxose	$\leq 2^{b}$			
D-Mannose	$\leq 2^{b}$			
L-Rhamnose	$\leq 2^{b}$			
Maltose	$\leq 2^{b}$			
Lactose	$\leq 2^{b}$			
N-Acetylmuramic acid (MurAc)	0 ^b			
N-Acetylneuraminic acid (Neu5Ac)	0 ^b	560 ^b		
N,N'-Diacetylchitobiose	0 ^b	5,300 ^d		

^{*a*} Data cited from Ref. 101; ^{*b*} Measured by ¹H NMR titration in D₂O; ^{*c*} Estimated from inhibitory activity of WGA precipitation induced by *N*-acetyl-D-glucosamine; ^{*d*} Measured by isothermal titration calorimetry in H₂O; ^{*e*} Measured by induced circular dichroism in H₂O.

to bind GlcNAc residues. It is also noteworthy that **53** was far more discriminatory than WGA. Whereas WGA exhibits significant binding to several 2-acetamido sugars, including GlcNAc, Me- α -GlcNAc, *N*-acetylneuraminic acid, and *N*,*N'*-diacetyl-D-chitobiose, the affinities of **53** for other 21 carbohydrates were more than one order of magnitude weaker than that for Me- β -GlcNAc. Since β -GlcNAc attached to the hydroxyl group of serine or threonine is a common posttranslational modification of proteins, binding experiments of **53** with a glycopeptide containing a GlcNAc residue were also conducted using **54** (Fig. 16). This was based on the sequence from GlcNAc-linked casein kinase II.¹⁰² ¹H NMR titration experiments in D₂O demonstrated that **53** bound to **54** with significant affinity ($K_a = 1040 \text{ M}^{-1}$). On the other hand, binding to the aglycosyl peptide **55** was negligible, supporting the conclusion that **53** binds **54** through the GlcNAc residue.

Elegant work by Davis and coworkers has also developed a water-soluble cagetype receptor for disaccharides.¹⁰³ Although the extended receptor **51** was successful in discriminating *n*-octyl β -cellobiose from monosaccharides and other disaccharides in chloroform, the cavity of this relatively flexible architecture had a tendency to collapse in aqueous solution by the hydrophobic contacts of the aromatic rings of the roof and floor. To avoid this phenomenon, Davis's group employed a *meta*-terphenyl structure in place of the *para*-terphenyl group of **51** and incorporated the fifth isophthalamide spacer. The resulting "rigid" variant of **51** (**56**, Fig. 17) bearing carboxylate groups was shown to bind cellobiose ($K_a = 560-600 \text{ M}^{-1}$) and methyl β -cellobioside ($K_a = 850-910 \text{ M}^{-1}$) with good affinities in aqueous solutions (Table VII). The binding affinities of compound **56** for carbohydrates were evaluated by ¹H NMR, induced circular dichroism (ICD), and fluorescence titrations. To obtain



FIG. 17. Cage-type boronic acid-independent lectin mimics (56, 57).

Y. NAKAGAWA AND Y. ITO

	$K_{\mathbf{a}} \left(\mathbf{M}^{-1}\right)^{a}$						
Carbohydrate	¹ H NMR	ICD	Fluorescence				
Cellobiose	600	580	560				
Methyl β-cellobioside		910	850				
Xylobiose		250	270				
N, N'-Diacetylchitobiose	120		120				
Lactose		11	14				
Mannobiose		13	9				
Maltose		15	11				
Gentiobiose		12	5				
Trehalose	ND ^b	ND					
Sucrose		ND	ND				
D-Glucose	11	12	ND				
D-Ribose		ND	ND				
N-Acetyl-D-glucosamine	24		19				

TABLE VII Binding Constants of Compound 56 for Carbohydrates in Aqueous Solution, as Measured by ¹H NMR, ICD, and Fluorescence Titrations

^a Data cited from Ref. 103; ^b Not detected.

reliable K_a values, at least two methods were used for each carbohydrate. While **56** showed moderate affinities for xylobiose ($K_a = 250-270 \text{ M}^{-1}$) and N,N'-diacetylchitobiose ($K_a = 120 \text{ M}^{-1}$), both of which are also all-equatorial disaccharides, only weak binding was detected for monosaccharides and other disaccharides ($K_a \le 25 \text{ M}^{-1}$). Interestingly, compound **56** can distinguish between cellobiose and lactose, the structures of which differ from each other only by one asymmetric center.

In subsequent work, an interesting hybrid molecule of **52** and **53** has been generated.¹⁰⁴ In the new water-soluble receptor **57** (Fig. 17), two isophthalamide spacers of **53** are replaced by two 2,5-bis(aminomethyl)pyrrole (BAMP) spacers of **52**. The isophthalamide and BAMP spacers are similar to each other in length, but very different in hydrogen-bonding characteristics. In the isophthalamide spacer, two sets of the amide hydrogen and amide carbonyl groups can act as hydrogen-bond donors and acceptors, respectively. On the other hand, the BAMP spacer contains one pyrrole ring as a hydrogen-bond donor and two amino groups, which can act either as donors or acceptors, depending on the pH of the solution. ¹H NMR titration experiments under basic conditions (pD=13) demonstrated that the affinity of **57** for D-glucose $(K_a=18 \text{ M}^{-1})$ was twice as high as that of **53** $(K_a=9 \text{ M}^{-1})$. However, **57** bound weakly to Me- β -Glc $(K_a=4 \text{ M}^{-1})$ and GlcNAc $(K_a=7 \text{ M}^{-1})$, in contrast to **53** $(K_a=28 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ for Me-}\beta$ -Glc, $K_a=56 \text{ M}^{-1}$ for GlcNAc). Although the binding test under neutral conditions has not been performed because of solubility problems with **57**, this study suggests that selectivity among all-equatorial carbohydrates can be tuned though modification of the hydrogen-bonding property of the cage-type receptors.

As already discussed, the affinity and selectivity of some cage-type receptors for carbohydrates are almost comparable with those of natural lectins. In this regard, the cage-type receptors are often called as "synthetic lectins." Since synthetic lectins are superior to natural lectins in terms of chemical stability, synthetic accessibility, and ease of structural modification, they have great potential for applications in glycobiology research.

4. Antiviral and Antimicrobial Potential of Boronic Acid-Independent Lectin Mimics

Coupled with the successful development of tripod-type and cage-type lectin mimics, their biomedical applications have begun to be explored. When considering their application to anti-HIV and antimicrobial therapies, it would be desirable to design receptors capable of binding to Man, which is a main component of high mannose-type oligosaccharides on the HIV envelope, and cell-wall mannans of pathogenic yeasts and bacteria.^{105,106} In this respect, the cage-type receptors are unlikely to be useful in applications as anti-HIV and antimicrobial agents because of their weak preference for Man. On the other hand, several tripod-type receptors have been shown to bind Man in organic solvents. Although none of tripod-type receptors thus far reported can bind carbohydrates in aqueous media, the tripod-type architecture has an advantage with regard to its simplicity in structure, which allows for easy preparation of libraries of compounds for systematic studies. By exploiting this advantage, attempts to develop tripod-type receptors with anti-HIV and antimicrobial activities have been recently made.

Pérez-Pérez and coworkers have synthesized a library of tripod-type compounds and have evaluated their anti-HIV activities.¹⁰⁷ The library is classified into three groups, the monomers (**58–66**, Fig. 18), dimers (**67–75**, Fig. 19), and trimers (**76–81**, Fig. 20) of the 1,3,5-triazine motif, incorporating two aromatic amino acid components (Phe, Tyr, or Trp). Each triazine motif is considered to have the tripod-type architecture, in which the 1,3,5-triazine ring is a core scaffold and the amino acid and amine groups can act as hydrophilic components. The carboxylate groups of the amino acid residues are also crucial for increasing the water solubility of the compounds. The dimers and trimers were designed based on the assumption that multivalent interaction can be realized between the two or three triazine motifs and glycans



FIG. 18. Monomers (58-66) of 1,3,5-triazine compounds.



FIG. 19. Dimers (67-75) of 1,3,5-triazine compounds.



FIG. 20. Trimers (76-81) of 1,3,5-triazine compounds.

on the viral envelope. The anti-HIV activity of these compounds was evaluated as the inhibitory activity against HIV-1(III_B) and HIV-2(ROD) replication in the CEM T-cell culture (Table VIII). While the monomers (**58–66**) were devoid of anti-HIV activity even at 250 μ M, significant activity was observed in several dimers and trimers. Among the dimers, the Trp-containing **69** and **72** showed moderate anti-HIV activity, with EC₅₀ values of 65 and 56 μ M for HIV-1(III_B) and 63 and 81 μ M for HIV-2(ROD), respectively. Enhanced activity was observed in the trimers, especially in those having triethylbenzene as the central unit. Thus, **79–81** afforded EC₅₀ values of 16–33 μ M for both HIV-1(III_B) and HIV-2(ROD). The same order in anti-HIV activity (trimer > dimer \gg monomer) was also observed in binding studies to HIV-1 gp120. SPR analysis revealed that the trimer **79** bound strongly to gp120, with K_d

Y. NAKAGAWA AND Y. ITO

	$\mathrm{EC}_{50} (\mu\mathrm{M})^a$				
Compound	HIV-1(III _B)	HIV-2(ROD)			
67	106	121			
68	≥ 250	≥ 250			
69	65	63			
70	$> 10^{b}$	>10			
71	148	80			
72	56	81			
73	≥ 250	≥250			
74	>250	>250			
75	112	120			
76	65	216			
77	≥ 250	≥ 250			
78	20	65			
79	16	22			
80	26	24			
81	18	33			

TABLE VIII Anti-HIV Activities of 67–81 in Human T-Lymphocyte Cell Cultures

^a Data cited from Ref. 107; ^b Precipitation was detected at higher concentration.

value of 1.61 μ M. On the other hand, the corresponding dimer **72**, which exhibited low antiviral activity, showed a much lower amplitude of binding, and binding of the corresponding inactive monomer **63** was barely detected. The strong correlation for the mono-, di-, and trimer between antiviral activity and binding affinity to HIV-1 gp120 possibly indicates that the anti-HIV activity of these tripod-type compounds is ascribed to the binding to HIV-1 gp120, and that a certain level of multivalent interactions is required to show both antiviral and binding activities. One remaining question is whether the observed affinity to HIV-1 gp120 is due to binding to the glycans or do the polyanionic compounds interact with protein areas of gp120, such as the positively charged V3 loop. Additionally, the anti-HIV activities of these compounds seem still modest compared to the activities of natural lectins. For example, the reported EC₅₀ values of CV-N for HIV-1(III_B) and HIV-2(ROD) are 0.003 and 0.002 μ M, respectively,^{68,108} and thus both of these are more than three orders of magnitude lower than those of **79**. Nevertheless, this study provides strong evidence that anti-HIV drug discovery based on the tripod-type architecture is a viable approach.

In other work, Roelens and coworkers have explored the potential of tripod-type receptors as the antimicrobial agents.¹⁰⁹ As already described, Roelens's group has

developed a family of aminopyrrolic tripod-type compounds, some of which proved to be effective receptors for Man in polar organic solvents. The pradimicins and benanomicins (see the later section) are small-size Man receptors that occur in nature. They are reported to show potent antimicrobial activity against a wide variety of fungi and yeasts, including clinically important pathogens, by binding to mannans on the cell wall. Focusing on the similarity of Man-binding properties of the aminopyrrolic tripod-type compounds and pradimicin-related natural products, Roelens's group performed the first investigation on the antimicrobial activity of aminopyrrolic tripod-type receptors. In preliminary screening, the progenitor of the family, compound 44, and the most effective Man receptors, 46 and 47, were tested for their antimicrobial activities against Candida tropicalis, Pichia norvegensis, Prototheca wickerhamii, and Prototheca zopfii (Table IX). All compounds were shown to inhibit markedly the growth of the four microorganisms. In particular, the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) values of 44 were comparable for those of the well-known antibiotics, amphotericin B and ketoconazole. Structural segments (82–87, Fig. 21) of compound 44 were less active or inactive, indicating that all structural components are essential for antimicrobial activity. Analogues of 44 were also prepared, and representative examples (88–92) are shown in Fig. 22. Antimicrobial assay using a variety of yeast and yeast-like microorganisms revealed that none of the modifications, including introduction of functional groups into the pyrrole rings (88-90) and variation of substitution pattern on the benzene platform (91, 92), enhanced the activity of the parent compound 44 (Table X). The binding affinity of these compounds for Oct-α-Man was also evaluated in acetonitrile. Although this affinity may not reflect the binding for mannans in water, a broad correlation was detected between the antimicrobial activity and Man-binding affinity; compounds without antimicrobial activity lacked Man-binding ability, whereas compounds having antimicrobial

	MIC $(\mu g/mL)^a$								
Species	44	46	47	82	83	84	85	86	87
Candida tropicalis	4	8	16	512	128	64	256	ND ^b	ND
Pichia norvegensis	2	4	16	512	64	16	64	ND	ND
Prototheca wickerhamii	2	4	16	ND	16	64	256	ND	ND
Prototheca zopfii	8	4	16	ND	32	128	256	ND	ND

TABLE IX Antibiotic Activities of Compounds 44, 46, 47, and 82–87 Against Yeast and Yeast-Like Microorganisms

^{*a*} Data cited from Ref. 109; ^{*b*} Not determined (>1024 μ g/mL).



FIG. 21. Aminopyrrolic tripod-type receptor (44) and its structural segments (82-87).



FIG. 22. Analogues (88-92) of the aminopyrrolic tripod-type receptor (44).

	$MIC \ (\mu g/mL)^a$						
Species	44	88	89	90	91	92	
Candida albicans	16	256	64	512	1024	256	
Candida glabrata	8	64	128	ND	1024	256	
Meyerozyma guilliermondii	8	64	64	512	1024	64	
Candida parapsilosis	8	64	ND ^b	ND	ND	512	
Candida tropicalis	4	32	8	128	512	32	
Pichia norvegensis	2	8	8	32	64	8	
Clavispora lusitaniae	32	128	128	512	ND	256	
Yarrowia lipolytica	8	128	32	256	512	64	
Oichia kudriavzevii	16	64	128	128	512	64	
Kluyveromyces marxianus	8	8	8	128	256	32	
Prototheca wickerhamii	2	128	256	256	256	32	
Prototheca zopfii	8	128	256	1024	256	64	

TABLE X Antibiotic Activities of 44 and 88–92 Against Yeast and Yeast-Like Microorganisms

^{*a*} Data cited from Ref. 109; ^{*b*} Not determined (>1024 µg/mL).

activity showed detectable binding for Man. However, perfect correlation was not obtained. On the basis of these results, Roelens and coworkers proposed the interesting hypothesis that Man binding of the tripod-type compounds would facilitate the approach to the microbial cells. This would trigger a process that would subsequently involve penetration across the membrane into the cytoplasm, where the compounds might exert antimicrobial activity by interacting with a specific target. Although further research is necessary to validate this hypothesis, this pioneering study emphasizes the promising potential of tripod-type carbohydrate receptors as antimicrobial agents having a novel mode of action.

III. NATURALLY OCCURRING LECTIN MIMICS

1. Antimicrobial and Carbohydrate-Binding Profiles of Pradimicins and Benanoimicins

While there are a number of publications describing synthetic lectin mimics, only a few natural products possessing carbohydrate-binding ability have been reported. Pradimicins (PRMs) and benanomicins are the only family of naturally occurring lectin mimics with non-peptidic skeletons. In 1988, three PRMs (PRM-A, B, C) and

two benanomicins (benanomicin A, B) were first isolated from actinomycetes as potential antibiotics, by Oki's and Kondo's groups, respectively.^{110,111} Interestingly, these compounds were found to share a common aglycon, namely benzo[*a*]naphthacenequinone, and differ only in the glycon components (Fig. 23). Since then, benanomicin B was shown to be the same as PRM-C,^{112,113} and 12 additional members of the PRM class demonstrating antimicrobial activity have been identified.^{114–124} These structurally unique natural products show potent *in vitro* antimicrobial activity against a wide variety of yeasts and fungi, and high *in vivo* therapeutic efficacy in murine



 $\begin{array}{l} \textbf{PRM-A}: R^1 = Me, R^2 = NHMe, R^3 = R^4 = H\\ \textbf{Benanomicin A}: R^1 = Me, R^2 = OH, R^3 = R^4 = H\\ \textbf{PRM-C} (\textbf{Bemanomicin B}): R^1 = Me, R^2 = NH_2, R^3 = R^4 = H\\ \textbf{PRM-D}: R^1 = H, R^2 = NHMe, R^3 = R^4 = H\\ \textbf{PRM-E}: R^1 = H, R^2 = NH_2, R^3 = R^4 = H\\ \textbf{PRM-FA1}: R^1 = CH_2OH, R^2 = NHMe, R^3 = R^4 = H\\ \textbf{PRM-FA2}: R^1 = CH_2OH, R^2 = NHMe, R^3 = OH, R^4 = H\\ \textbf{PRM-FL}: R^1 = Me, R^2 = NHMe, R^3 = CH_2OH, R^4 = H\\ \textbf{PRM-FL}: R^1 = CH_2OH, R^2 = NHMe, R^3 = CH_2OH, R^4 = SO_3H\\ \textbf{PRM-S}: R^1 = Me, R^2 = NHMe, R^3 = CH_2OH, R^4 = SO_3H\\ \textbf{PRM-S}: R^1 = Me, R^2 = NHMe, R^3 = CH_2OH, R^4 = SO_3H\\ \textbf{PRM-S}: R^1 = Me, R^2 = NHMe, R^3 = CH_2OH, R^4 = SO_3H\\ \textbf{PRM-S}: R^1 = Me, R^2 = NHMe, R^3 = CH_2OH, R^4 = SO_3H\\ \textbf{PRM-S}: R^1 = Me, R^2 = NHMe, R^3 = CH_2OH, R^4 = SO_3H\\ \textbf{PRM-S}: R^1 = Me, R^2 = NHMe, R^3 = CH_2OH, R^4 = SO_3H\\ \textbf{PRM-S}: R^1 = Me, R^2 = NHMe, R^3 = CH_2OH, R^4 = SO_3H\\ \textbf{PRM-S}: R^1 = Me, R^2 = NHMe, R^3 = CH_2OH, R^4 = SO_3H\\ \textbf{PRM-S}: R^1 = Me, R^2 = NHMe, R^3 = CH_2OH, R^4 = SO_3H\\ \textbf{PRM-S}: R^1 = Me, R^2 = NHME, R^3 = CH_2OH, R^4 = SO_3H\\ \textbf{PRM-S}: R^1 = Me, R^2 = NHME, R^3 = CH_2OH, R^4 = SO_3H\\ \textbf{PRM-S}: R^1 = Me, R^2 = NHME, R^3 = CH_2OH, R^4 = SO_3H\\ \textbf{PRM-S}: R^1 = Me, R^2 = NHME, R^3 = CH_2OH, R^4 = SO_3H\\ \textbf{PRM-S}: R^1 = Me, R^2 = NHME, R^3 = CH_2OH, R^4 = SO_3H\\ \textbf{PRM-S}: R^1 = ME, R^2 = NHME, R^3 = CH_2OH, R^4 = SO_3H\\ \textbf{PRM-S}: R^1 = ME, R^2 = NHME, R^3 = CH_2OH, R^4 = SO_3H\\ \textbf{PRM-S}: R^1 = ME, R^2 = NHME, R^3 = CH_2OH, R^4 = SO_3H\\ \textbf{PRM-S}: R^1 = ME, R^2 = NHME, R^3 = CH_2OH, R^4 = SO_3H\\ \textbf{PRM-S}: R^1 = ME, R^2 = NHME, R^3 = CH_2OH, R^4 = SO_3H\\ \textbf{PRM-S}: R^1 = ME, R^2 = NHME, R^3 = CH_2OH, R^4 = SO_3H\\ \textbf{PRM-S}: R^1 = ME, R^2 = NHME, R^3 = CH_2OH, R^4 = SO_3H\\ \textbf{PRM-S}: R^3 =$



FIG. 23. Pradimicins (PRMs) and benanomicins.

models against *Candida albicans*, *Cryptococcus neoformans*, and *Aspergillus fumigatus*. Tables XI and XII list the *in vitro* and *in vivo* antimicrobial profiles of PRM-A. Since there is no cross-resistance to other antimicrobial agents, such as amphotericin B, 5-fluorocytosine, and ketoconazole, this family of compounds is chemically and functionally different from the other major classes of antimicrobial agents. The initial biochemical study using *C. albicans* found that PRM-A causes K⁺ leakage from the cells and binds to the outer surface of *C. albicans* cells in a Ca²⁺-dependent manner.¹²⁶ The absorption of PRM-A on *C. albicans* cells was found to

	MIC (µg/mL) ^a					
Species	PRM-A	BMY-28864 (93)				
Saccharomyces cerevisiae						
ATCC 9763	12.5	3.1				
Candida albicans						
IAM 4888	50	6.3				
A9540	50	6.3				
ATCC 38247	3.1	0.8				
ATCC 32354	12.5	6.3				
Candida tropicalis						
IFO 10241	>100	50				
CS-07	25	6.3				
Candida parapsilosis						
CS-08	>100	3.1				
Candida krusei						
A15052	25	3.1				
Cryptococcus neoformans						
D49	1.6	1.6				
IAM 4514	0.8	1.6				
CS-01	1.6	1.6				
Aspergillus fumigatus						
IAM 2034	3.1	3.1				
IAM 2530	1.6	3.1				
Aspergillus flavus						
FA 21436	6.3	6.3				
CS-18	25	100				
Sporothrix schenckii						
IFO 8158	1.6	3.1				
Trichophyton mentagrophytes						
No. 4329	6.3	12.5				
D155	3.1	12.5				

 TABLE XI

 In Vitro Antibiotic Activities of PRM-A and BMY-28864 (93)

^{*a*} Data cited from Ref. 125.

Y. NAKAGAWA AND Y. ITO

	PD ₅₀ (mg/kg) ^{<i>a,b</i>}		
Species	PRM-A	BMY-28864 (93)	
Candida albicans A9540	8.9	9	
Cryptococcus neoformans IAM 4514	11	11	
Aspergillus fumigatus IAM 2034	16	36	

TABLE XII In Vivo Activities of PRM-A and BMY-28864 (93) Against Candida, Cryptococcus, and Aspergillus Systematic Infection in Mice (n=5)

^a 50% protective dose; ^b Data cited from Ref. 125.

originate from binding to mannan in the yeast cell wall. These results collectively suggest that the antimicrobial action of PRM-A is associated with alteration of the membrane permeability by binding to cell-wall mannan. This putative mechanism explains well the fact that PRM-A does not induce K^+ leakage from human erythrocytes or other mammalian cells in the presence of Ca^{2+} ion.

The structure–microbial activity relationship of PRM-A has been also thoroughly examined by using naturally occurring congeners and artificial derivatives (Fig. 24). Replacement of the D-Ala component with L-amino acids, including L-Ala, abolished antimicrobial activity.^{127,128} On the other hand, D-α-aminobutanoic acid, D-Phe, D-Asp, D-2,3-diaminopropanoic acid, D-Lys, Gly, and D-Ser derivatives retained the activity, indicating that stereochemistry at position 17 is crucial for the antimicrobial



FIG. 24. Structural requirements for antifungal activity of PRM-A.

action of PRM-A, while the side chain of D-Ala plays only a marginal role. The amide hydrogen at position 16 seems to be important, because a complete loss of activity was observed in sarcosine (N-methylglycine) and D-Pro derivatives. The role of the carboxyl group at position 18 was also examined, using the ester and amide derivatives.¹²⁹ Whereas the esters, butyl amide, and dipeptidyl derivatives showed much diminished activity, the amide, N-methylamide, and N,N-dimethylamide derivatives were as effective as PRM-A. These observations suggest that the carboxyl group at position 18 is not essential, but there are some electronic and steric requirements around this group. On the other hand, the antimicrobial activity of PRM-A is quite sensitive to chemical modifications of the benzo [a] naphthacenequinone group.¹³⁰ Methylation of the 1- and 9-hydroxyl groups, substitution at positions 4 and 10, and reduction of 13-ketone group significantly decreased or abolished the activity. The position 11 is the sole site to be modified without losing activity. 11-Demethoxy-, 11-O-demethyl-, and 11-O-ethyl derivatives were as active as PRM-A. These results indicate that the benzo[a]naphthacenequinone group of PRM-A, except for position 11, plays a pivotal role in the antimicrobial action. Regarding the disaccharide group of PRM-A, the D-xylose component is apparently not essential, because PRM-B, which lacks the D-xylose group, is indistinguishable from PRM-A in its antimicrobial activity.¹¹⁵ Similarly, comparison of PRM-A with benanomicins A and B (PRM-C) suggests that the methylamino group at position 4' of the 4,6-dideoxy-4-methylamino-D-galactose substituent is of little importance,¹¹⁰ which is further supported by the observations that the activity is retained after introduction of various alkyl and acyl groups onto the methylamino group.¹³¹ In contrast, antimicrobial evaluations of synthetic derivatives having D-fucose, L-arabinose, and D-galactose in place of the 4,6-dideoxy-4-methylamino-D-galactose group showed that the stereochemistry at position 1' and the existence of the methyl group at position 6' are fairly important for the biological activity of PRM-A.¹³²

During the foregoing studies on structure–activity relationships of PRM-A, Oki's group has developed a semisynthetic derivative showing augmented biological and physicochemical properties. BMY-28864 (**93**, Fig. 25), which was prepared by reductive *N*-methylation of PRM-FA2, displays an *in vitro* and *in vivo* antimicrobial profile (Tables XI and XII) similar to that of PRM-A, but has greater water solubility than PRM-A (0.02 mg/mL for PRM-A, > 20.0 mg/mL for **93** in phosphate-buffered saline containing 0.9 mM CaCl₂ and 0.5 mM MgCl₂, pH 7.2, 25 °C).^{125,133,134} The availability of sample and handling convenience enabled further studies on the mode of antimicrobial action of PRMs by using compound **93**. As the first and foremost step, the carbohydrate binding of **93** was thoroughly examined. In the early studies, PRM-A was found to produce an insoluble precipitate with yeast mannan in the



PRM-A : R^1 = Me, R^2 = NHMe BMY-28864 (**93**) : R^1 = CH₂OH, R^2 = NMe₂

FIG. 25. PRM-A and BMY-28864 (93).

presence of Ca^{2+} ion.¹²⁶ Thus, quantitative analysis of the precipitate of **93** with Ca^{2+} ion and methyl α -D-mannopyranoside (Me- α -Man) was initially performed.¹³⁵ The molar quantity of 93, Ca^{2+} ion, and Me- α -Man in the precipitate was determined by UV/visible spectrophotometry, atomic absorption spectrometry, and the phenolsulfuric acid methods, respectively. The molar component ratio of $93:Ca^{2+}$: Me-α-Man was found to be 2:1:4. The same ratio was obtained when the concentration of 93 was varied, or p-mannose was used instead of Me- α -Man for forming the precipitate, indicating that the precipitate of 93 with Ca^{2+} ion and Me- α -Man is a true chemical complex and not a simple mixture. By taking advantage of this complexforming property, the carbohydrate specificity of 93 was subsequently evaluated.¹³⁶ As shown in Table XIII, compound 93 produced precipitates with Me- β -Man, the α and β anomers of *p*-nitrophenyl D-mannopyranoside, *p*-aminophenyl D-mannopyranoside, D-fructose, D-arabinose, and D-lyxose, as well as D-mannose and Me-a-Man, while other carbohydrates did not form precipitates at all. The complex formation with these carbohydrates was also confirmed by UV-visible spectrophotometric analysis. It is noteworthy that the carbohydrate specificity of 93 is quite high; the compound has the ability to discriminate D-mannose from L-mannose, and the 2-, 3-, and 4-epimers of D-mannose (D-glucose, D-altrose, and D-talose, respectively), D-mannosamine, and N-acetyl-D-mannosamine. These results indicate that 93 recognizes the 2-, 3-, and 4-hydroxyl groups of D-mannose, and the configuration and substituent at position 1 are not essential. However, it remains unclear as to whether

Carbohydrate	Precipitation (%) in Water (pH 7.0)
Hexoses	
D-Allose ^a	0
D-Altrose ^a	0
D-Galactose ^a	0
L-Galactose ^a	0
D-Glucose ^a	0
Methyl α -D-glucopyranoside ^{<i>a</i>}	0
D-Gulose ^a	0
D-Idose ^a	0
D-Talose ^a	0
D-Mannose ^a	100
L-Mannose ^b	0
D-Mannose 6-phosphate ^a	0
Methyl α -D-mannopyranoside ^a	100
Methyl β -D-mannopyranoside ^b	100
<i>p</i> -Nitrophenyl α -D-mannopyranoside ^b	100
<i>p</i> -Nitrophenyl β -D-mannopyranoside ^b	100
<i>p</i> -Aminophenyl α -D-mannopyranoside ^b	100
D-Fructose ^a	100
D-Fucose ^b	0
D-Rhamnose ^b	0
D-Sorbose ^a	0
N-Acetyl-D-glucosamine ^a	0
N-Acetyl-D-mannosamine ^a	0
D-Glucosamine ^a	0
D-Mannosamine ^a	0
Pentoses	
D-Arabinose ^b	100
L-Arabinose ^b	0
D-Ribose ^b	0
D-Lyxose ^b	100
D-Xylose ^b	0
Nonose and disaccharides	
<i>N</i> -Acetylneuraminic acid ^{<i>a</i>}	0
Lactose ^b	0
Maltose ^b	0
Sucrose ^b	0

 $\label{eq:TABLE XIII} TABLE \ XIII Precipitation of Compound 93 with Carbohydrates in the Presence of Ca^{2+} \ Ion$

^{*a*} Data cited from Ref. 135; ^{*b*} Data cited from Ref. 136.



FIG. 26. Comparison of D-mannose with D-arabinose, D-lyxose, D-fructose, L-galactose, and L-fucose.

the 6-hydroxyl group of D-mannose is necessary for binding to **93**. In addition, there is no plausible explanation available concerning the reason why D-fructose, D-arabinose, and D-lyxose formed precipitates with **93**. Oki's group proposed that these carbohydrates have an arrangement similar to 2-, 3-, and 4-hydroxyl groups of D-mannose (Fig. 26), and thus bind to **93** in the same manner as D-mannose. However, L-galactose and L-fucose, both of which do not form precipitates with **93**, can also mimic the array of 2-, 3-, and 4-hydroxyl groups of D-mannose. Further studies are necessary to clarify these issues. In addition, however, the metal specificity of **93** was examined by UV– visible spectrophotometric analysis and two biological assays, yeast-cell absorption, and potassium leakage induction tests.¹³⁶ The results collectively suggest that Sr^{2+} and Cd^{2+} ions, which have ionic radii similar to that of the Ca^{2+} ion (1.05 Å for Ca^{2+} , 1.18 Å for Sr^{2+} , 0.99 Å for Cd^{2+}), can also form the ternary complexes with **93** and mannan.

2. Molecular Basis of Carbohydrate Recognition by PRMs

Since the discovery that pradimicins have a C-type lectin-like property, interaction analysis of compound **93** with Ca^{2+} ion and D-mannose has been attempted in an effort to understand the molecular basis of carbohydrate recognition by pradimicins. Oki's group examined the Ca^{2+} salt-forming ability of PRM-A, compound **93**, and their derivatives (**94–100**, Fig. 27) and found that the ester derivatives (**94**, **95**, **98**) formed no Ca^{2+} salts, whereas PRM-A, **93**, and the other derivatives (**96**, **97**, **99**, and **100**), having the carboxyl group free, produced the Ca^{2+} salts with a PRM: Ca^{2+} ratio of 2:1.¹³⁷ Although the hydroxyl groups on the benzo[*a*]naphthacenequinone group



FIG. 27. Derivatives (94-100) of BMY-28864 (93).

also have the potential to bind Ca^{2+} ion, these observations suggest that the carboxyl group of PRMs is a possible binding site for Ca^{2+} ion. This hypothesis was partially supported by solution NMR analysis of the formation of the Ca^{2+} salt of **93**.^{138–140} Significant change in chemical shifts upon addition of $CaCl_2$ was observed for the proton signals at positions 3-Me, 4, and 7 of **93**. On the other hand, the proton signals at positions 10 and 12 showed little change, indicating that the Ca^{2+} -binding site is near the A ring but not around the E ring of PRMs. The Man-binding process of PRMs was investigated using **93** by Lee and coworkers.¹⁴¹ UV–visible spectrophotometric analysis demonstrated that two molecules of PRM bind four molecules of Man in two separate steps. As shown in Scheme 4, the $[PRM_2/Ca^{2+}]$ salt initially binds two molecules of Man to form the ternary $[PRM_2/Ca^{2+}/Man_2]$ complex, which then incorporates another two molecules of Man to form the ultimate ternary $[PRM_2/Ca^{2+}/Man_4]$ complex. This complicated three-component equilibrium, along with the aggregation-forming property of PRMs, has collectively made it difficult to analyze the molecular interaction of PRMs and Man by conventional methods of solution NMR.



SCHEME 4. Complex-forming equilibrium of PRM with Ca²⁺ ion and Man.

Our group has performed solid-state NMR experiments using solid aggregates of PRM-A complexed with Me-a-Man. The first stage of the analysis explored the role of Ca^{2+} ion on the binding of Man with PRM-A.¹⁴² As already described, Cd^{2+} ion can act as a surrogate for Ca^{2+} ion in the binding of Man to PRMs. Accordingly, we conducted cross-polarization/magic angle spinning (CP/MAS) ¹¹³Cd-NMR spectroscopic experiments with solid samples of the PRM-A/¹¹³Cd²⁺ salt and the ternary PRM-A/¹¹³Cd²⁺/Me- α -Man complex (Fig. 28). The ¹¹³Cd NMR spectrum of the PRM-A/¹¹³Cd²⁺ salt exhibited a broad signal around $\delta = -50$ ppm, which is similar to those reported for solid cadmium compounds containing two carboxyl groups, such as Cd(OAc)₂·H₂O ($\delta = -46$ ppm) and Cd(O₂CCH₂CH₂CO₂)·2H₂O $(\delta = -52 \text{ ppm})$.^{143,144} This result indicates that the ¹¹³Cd²⁺ ion binds to the carboxyl group of PRM-A and also supports the hypothesis that Ca^{2+} ion bridges the carboxylate groups of two PRM molecules to produce the Ca²⁺ salts having a PRM:Ca²⁺ ratio of 2:1. In contrast, the ternary PRM-A/113Cd2+/Me-a-Man complex exhibited a sharp signal at $\delta = -135$ ppm, which was markedly shifted upfield (>80 ppm) in comparison with that of the PRM-A/¹¹³Cd²⁺ salt ($\delta = -50$ ppm), suggesting the occurrence of a change in ${}^{113}Cd^{2+}$ coordination upon binding of Me- α -Man to the PRM-A/¹¹³Cd²⁺ salt. Since ¹¹³Cd signals upfield of $\delta = -100$ ppm are observed only for ${}^{113}Cd^{2+}$ coordinated with more than six oxygen ligands, 143 it is reasonable to assume that the hydroxyl group(s) of Me- α -Man coordinates to ¹¹³Cd²⁺ ion in



FIG. 28. Solid-state CP/MAS ¹¹³Cd-NMR spectra of (A) PRM-A/¹¹³Cd²⁺ and (B) PRM-A/¹¹³Cd²⁺/ Me- α -Man complexes. The signals with an asterisk are the spinning side bands of the ¹¹³Cd signal at δ =-135 ppm.

the PRM-A/¹¹³Cd²⁺ salt. The realistic implication of these results is that PRM-A binds at least one molecule of Man in a Ca²⁺-mediated manner through its carbox-ylate group.

The solid-state ¹¹³Cd-NMR spectroscopic analysis suggested the possibility that one of the binding sites for Man is located in the proximity of the carboxyl group of PRM-A. On the basis of this assumption, our subsequent analysis was directed at identifying the Man-binding site in PRM-A.¹⁴⁵ Several lines of evidence have suggested that PRM-A possesses two binding sites exhibiting different affinities for Man.^{135,141} Although it is undoubtedly difficult to search simultaneously two Manbinding sites of PRM-A, we successfully prepared an aggregate composed solely of the [PRM-A₂/Ca²⁺/Me-α-Man₂] complex, in which only the Man-binding site of stronger affinity was occupied by Me-α-Man. Me-α-Man was found to be released from the weaker binding site during the process of washing the aggregate composed of the [PRM-A₂/Ca²⁺/Me- α -Man₄] complex. The simple 1:1 complexes of biosynthetically ¹³C-enriched PRM-As and Me- α -[¹³C₆]Man facilitated the analysis, by two-dimensional dipolar-assisted rotational resonance (2D-DARR), of the stronger binding site for Man.^{146–148} In 2D-DARR spectra, dipolar interactions between ¹³C nuclei that are located within a 6 Å distance can be detected as cross peaks, permitting evaluation of intermolecular close contacts between PRM-A and Me- α -Man. The 2D-DARR analyses detected close interactions between the D-alanine residue (C-17, 17-Me, C-18) and the 3-Me, C-4, C-5, and C-14 of PRM-A with Me-α-Man (Fig. 29). These close contacts are simultaneously compatible when Man is located on the same face of the A ring as the D-alanine group and the C-14 carbon atom, suggesting that the cavity consisting of the D-alanine group and the ABC rings is the stronger binding site for Man (Fig. 30). Similar CP/MAS ¹¹³Cd-NMR and DARR experiments using compound 93 confirmed that the mode of binding of Ca^{2+} ion and Man is nearly identical between PRM-A and 93.149

Based on the results of the solid-state NMR analyses and the previous structure– activity relationship studies, we proposed a model for the Man binding of PRM-A (Fig. 31).¹⁴⁵ The coordination of Ca²⁺, hydrogen bonding, and CH/ π interaction might all be involved in the interaction of PRM-A with Man. It is particularly interesting that the architecture of PRM-A, the naturally occurring lectin mimic, seems conceptually similar to that of tripod-type lectin mimics (Fig. 9); the A ring provides the hydrophobic surface for CH/ π interaction, and the D-alanine, anthraquinone, and disaccharide components serve as hydrophilic units. Although more investigations are necessary to validate this model, these studies provide an important step toward the full elucidation of the molecular basis of the recognition of Man by PRM-A.



FIG. 29. 2D-DARR spectra of $[^{13}C$ -labeled PRM-A₂/Ca²⁺/Me- α - $[^{13}C_6]Man_2]$ complexes.



FIG. 30. Possible Man-binding conformation of PRM-A.



FIG. 31. Man-binding model of PRM-A.

3. Antiviral Profile and Mode of Action of Pradimicins

In the late 1980s, PRM-A and benanomicins A and B were discovered to block effectively HIV infection in cell-free as well as in cell-to-cell infection systems *in vitro*.^{150,151} The subsequent study by Oki's group provided evidence that PRM-A inhibits an early step in HIV infection.¹⁵² Preincubation of the cells with HIV at 0 °C, followed by incubation with PRM-A at 37 °C, resulted in complete inhibition of HIV

infection, whereas PRM-A did not inhibit the infection after preincubation at 37 °C. No inhibitory effect was observed when the viruses treated with PRM-A were washed prior to infection. Moreover, addition of mannan or ethylene glycol-bis(2-aminoethyl ether)-N,N,N',N'-tetraacetic acid (EGTA) prevented the inhibitory effect of PRM-A. Thus, it has been assumed that PRM-A interferes with the viral fusion process through binding to the glycan on the HIV envelope in the presence of Ca²⁺ ion.

The antiviral properties of PRM-A were later studied in more detail by Balzarini and coworkers.¹⁵³ PRM-A was shown to inhibit the cytopathic effects induced by HIV-1 and HIV-2, although its EC₅₀ values are in the lower micromolar range, and thus quite higher than those of natural lectins (Table XIV). Time-of-drug-addition studies demonstrated that PRM-A as well as the mannose-specific plant lectin HHA needed to be present from the beginning of the virus infection to fully suppress the infection. This observation supports the assumption that an early event in the infection cycle of HIV is the target of therapeutic intervention by PRM-A. The inhibition of the HIV entry process by PRM-A through interaction with gp120 was further confirmed by the complete loss of the inhibitory effect of PRM-A against VSV-G-pseudotyped HIV-1, which lacks gp120 in the envelope. The SPR analysis revealed that PRM-A significantly bound to gp120 in a Ca²⁺-dependent manner, with a K_d value of $\sim 2.7 \,\mu$ M, suggesting the possibility that PRM-A inhibits entry of the virus by binding to high mannose-type glycans of gp120 in a manner similar to those of natural lectins. In accordance with this hypothesis, HIV-1 strains selected under increasing pressure of PRM-A were found to contain up to eight different glycan deletions in

Carbohydrate Receptor	EC ₅₀ (μM)		
	HIV-1(III _B)	HIV-2(ROD)	
GNA ^a	0.018	0.011	
HHA ^a	0.006	0.016	
NPA ^a	0.009	0.013	
CA ^a	0.031	0.018	
LOA ^a	0.004	0.003	
EHA ^a	0.004	0.001	
CV-N ^a	0.003	0.002	
UDA ^a	0.140	0.330	
PRM-A ^b	5.2	5.2	
PRM-S ^b	5.0	4.7	

TABLE XIV Anti-HIV Activities of Natural Lectins, PRM-A, and PRM-S in MT-4 Cell Cultures

^{*a*} Data cited from Ref. 12; ^{*b*} Data cited from Ref. 154.

gp120, most of which were high mannose-type glycans. Such deletion at similar glycosylation sites was also observed for such mannose-specific plant lectins as HHA, GNA, and CN-V. Thus, PRM-A can act as a lectin in terms of glycan recognition, antiviral activity, and pattern of drug resistance.

Balzarini's group has also examined the antiviral action of PRM-S, a water-soluble derivative of PRM-A having a D-glucose 3-sulfate group instead of the terminal D-xylose group (Fig. 23).¹⁵⁴ PRM-S also inhibited the cytopathic effect of HIV-1 and HIV-2, showing EC₅₀ values similar to those of PRM-A (Table XIV), and the binding capacity of PRM-S for gp120 was comparable to that of PRM-A. Drug resistance selection experiments using PRM-S demonstrated that PRM-S, like PRM-A, selected for drug-resistant mutant virus strains contained deletions at various Nglycosylation sites of HIV-1 gp120, showing that PRM-S as well as PRM-A has a strong preference for binding to high mannose-type glycans. Subsequently, Bewley and coworkers have made a direct observation of the binding of PRM-S with the trisaccharide, α -Man- $(1 \rightarrow 3)$ - $[\alpha$ -Man- $(1 \rightarrow 6)$]-Man, using saturation-transfer difference (STD) NMR.¹⁵⁵ Moreover, PRM-S and PRM-A were found to inhibit, efficiently and dose dependently, the binding of HIV-1 to the DC-SIGN-expressing cells, indicating that these compounds prevent virus capture by DC-SIGN-expressing cells and subsequent transmission to T lymphocytes. PRM-S and PRM-A were also investigated for their potential to induce chemokines and cytokines. In contrast to the prokaryotic mannosespecific lectin CV-N, which dramatically stimulates the production of a wide range of cytokines and chemokines,¹⁵⁶ neither compound had any stimulatory effect on the chemo/cytokine production levels in mononuclear cells of peripheral blood.

On the basis of the unique antiviral properties of PRM-A and PRM-S, as well as lectins, Balzarini has proposed a novel therapeutic concept for HIV treatment that is entirely different from all currently existing therapeutic methods.^{11–13} Exposure of HIV to carbohydrate receptors puts the virus in the dilemma of either becoming eliminated from its host by being kept suppressed by the carbohydrate receptors or escaping the pressure from the carbohydrate receptors by mutating glycosylation sites in gp120, and thereby becoming prone to neutralization and elimination by the immune system. In contrast to the conventional strategies of designing drugs that have as high a genetic barrier as possible to delay the development of drug resistance, the proposed approach makes use of viral variability and the inherent viral replication to generate mutant virus strains having deletions of glycosylation sites on gp120. Moreover, this therapeutic concept is unique in regard to its use of concerned action of drug chemotherapy—triggering the immune system in the host ("self-vaccination") by the administration of one single drug. It is also noteworthy that carbohydrate receptors can interact with a target gp120 molecule in a non-stoichiometric manner.

All existing anti-HIV drugs, such as reverse-transcriptase inhibitors and protease inhibitors, bind to only one target molecule. As a result, one or a few mutations that appear in a target usually elicit a marked degree of drug resistance. On the other hand, several carbohydrate receptor molecules can bind to one gp120 molecule bearing 20–29 glycans at the same time, resulting in a high genetic barrier for HIV to overcome. Obviously, this effect becomes more significant for the smaller carbohydrate receptors, PRM-A and PRM-S, because a larger number of molecules can simultaneously bind to gp120 without steric hindrance. They also have additional advantages over protein lectins in regard to chemical stability and productivity. Although their antiviral activity is less pronounced than that of lectins, these lectin mimics possessing beneficial characteristics for drug development may be very suitable candidates as conceptually novel anti-HIV drugs.

In addition to the anti-HIV activity, PRM-A has been shown to possess antiviral activity against HCV,⁵² coronaviruses,⁵⁵ and simian immunodeficiency virus.¹⁵⁷ PRM-A also inhibits the entry process of these viruses by binding to the viral envelope-associated glycans. Therefore, PRM-A and its derivatives may qualify as potential antiviral drug candidates for infectious diseases derived from these viruses.

IV. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

The emerging biological and pathological significance of carbohydrates has increased the importance of carbohydrate receptors as diagnostic and therapeutic agents as well as research tools in glycobiology. A number of efforts have been made to utilize lectins for glycobiology research and have yielded fruitful results. However, their application in medicinal research has been hampered by the potential disadvantages presented by their protein nature. Consequently, there is a rapidly growing interest in small molecules having carbohydrate-binding properties (lectin mimics). Progress in the study of synthetic lectin mimics has laid an excellent foundation for the future development of diagnostic and therapeutic agents based on carbohydrate recognition. The boronic acid-dependent lectin mimics are designed to form covalent bonds with carbohydrates in aqueous media, and several examples have been successfully shown to act as possible sensors for such biologically important biomarkers as sialyl Lewis X and the TF antigen. An especially encouraging result was obtained for boronic acid-dependent lectin mimics having peptide backbones, in which such non-covalent interactions as hydrogen bonding and CH/π interaction also contribute to carbohydrate recognition. The combination of covalent interactions with boronic acid components and non-covalent interactions with other functional groups

may be a promising strategy for designing a new generation of boronic acid-dependent lectin mimics that can act as diagnostic and therapeutic agents.

In parallel development, intensive work in the area of supramolecular chemistry has generated the boronic acid-independent lectin mimics, which rely solely on noncovalent interactions with carbohydrates. A number of the tripod-type lectin mimics have been shown to bind effectively carbohydrates in organic media. However, exact prediction of the binding preference is still difficult, and carbohydrate recognition in aqueous media by means of the tripod-type architecture remains an important goal for future studies. Meanwhile, the cage-type lectin mimics have successfully demonstrated recognition in aqueous solution of those carbohydrates having the allequatorial substitution mode. However, at present, no strategy exists for designing cage-type lectin mimics that recognize other carbohydrates. Rapidly evolving computational methods may overcome these problems.

While only initial attempts have been made up to the present to develop synthetic lectin mimics having antiviral and antimicrobial activities, the naturally occurring lectin mimics, pradimicins and benanomicins, have become established as promising candidates as therapeutic agents having a novel mode of action. They express antiviral and antimicrobial activities by binding to Man residues of glycans on the viral envelope and the microbial cell wall. It is particularly interesting that these natural products appear to constitute highly sophisticated tripod-type lectin mimics, and they possibly provide a unique guide for designing a new therapeutic leads having the tripod-type architecture. With further advancements in these fields of research, novel therapeutic drugs based on lectin mimics are likely to emerge in the near future.

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